

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 2254 - SB 2296**

March 23, 2009

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes that the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) can investigate reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation involving any person in one of its institutions. The Director of Adult Protective Services, or the Director's designee, rather than the director of a county office of the Department of Human Services (DHS) is granted authority to approve procedures for the reporting and protection of adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation at hospitals, clinics, schools, or other agencies. The Department of Health and DMRS are required to give priority to adults who DHS is unable to find resources for and are in need of specialized care or medical treatment.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant**

Assumptions:

- Currently, DMRS investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of individuals within its facilities. Codifying this current practice will not result in a fiscal impact to DMRS or DHS.
- According to DHS, the Department does not use the term "county director." Codifying the current method of approval for the approval of procedures submitted by entities for reporting and projecting adults will not result in a fiscal impact to DHS.
- DMRS currently has a limited number of placements and funding available for the home-and community-based services waivers and over 5,800 individuals on the waiting list. The provisions of the bill will only require DMRS to give individuals referred by DHS Adult Protective Services priority placement on the wait list and will not require DMRS to automatically enroll these individuals.
- Any cost incurred by DMRS and the Department of Health to assist in finding services for individuals who DHS can not find resources for can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml